

chi, Pakistan from Daman, Saudi Arabia. In response to our enquiries in the matter, these reports could not be confirmed.

(b) Government have seen Press reports that Pakistan is strengthening its air force by acquiring an additional 40 F-7p fighter aircraft from China. However, there have been no reports confirming the signing of the contract.

(c) Government has under constant review factors affecting the nation's security and appropriate action is taken to safeguard the nation's interests.

Potato Research Centre in Bihar

4598. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nalanda district in Bihar has been one of the most important potato growing areas in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to establish a Research Centre for high yielding seed for potato in this district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) Sir, Nalanda is an important potato growing district in Bihar.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

Grant of Mining Lease in Bihar

4599. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has granted mining leases as adjudicated by the Mining Tribunal of the Union Government during 1990-91; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loading/Unloading Labourers in IISCO

4600. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for loading and unloading work of IISCO, in West Bengal has been given to non-contract labourers during 1990-91;

(b) if so, whether the company propose to pay wages to contract labourers without doing any work; and

(c) if not, the fate of these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Saidpur Parliamentary Constituency

4601. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG agencies set up in Saidpur Parliamentary Constituency;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to allot more LPG agencies in the above Constituency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is no agency.

(b) and (c). As per present policy, new LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner depending upon the economic viability and product availability, in towns having a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census)

ONGC Drilling in Andhra Pradesh

4602. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has undertaken Oil and Natural Gas drilling work at several places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bobbaralanka Unit in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh is not in working condition; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, 96 exploratory and two parametric wells have been drilled. 19 prospects have been established as hydrocarbon bearing structures.

(c) No unit (drilling rig) is presently deployed in Bobbaralanka area.

(d) Does not arise.

Central Marine Research Institute in Mandapam (T.N.)

4603. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to further develop the Central Marine Research Institute at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) and (b). Sir. It is proposed to strengthen the infrastructure for research at Mandapam during the 8th Plan for Seafarming, Seabass Culture and Cultivation of Seaweeds under controlled conditions subject to availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection of Fishermen in Tamil Nadu

4604. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the fishermen living in the Western Coast of Tamil Nadu to carry on their fishing operation during monsoon season too when they face